

LABOR DAY SALES - While back-to-school shopping has already boosted august's retail sales, retailers are expected to showcase deep discounts to bring in more customers this weekend, even beating deals on black friday and cyber monday. Once again, labor day sales are starting early this year, with promotions for both end of summer merchandise and fall clothing launching ahead of the monday holiday, said tamra feldman, vice president of marketing for the personalized shopping deals site shop it to me if they're looking for great labor day sales, don't have to wait until monday, feldman said. "you can start finding those discounts already feldman compared holiday shopping weekends last year and was surprised to find that labor day weekend sales offered the steepest online shopping discounts for clothing, shoes and accessory markdowns from over 150 online retailers. Labor day discounts averaged 48 percent while they were 42 percent for the weekend of black friday and cyber monday. Feldman pointed out that there was more inventory on sale during the latter last year.

TOBACCO SMOKE TIED TO FLU COMPLICATIONS IN KIDS - Kids hospitalized with the flu are more likely to need intensive care and a longer stay if they've been exposed to second-hand smoke at home, a small new study finds. Analyzing the records of more than 100 kids hospitalized with flu in new york state, researchers found those exposed to second-hand smoke were five times more likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit and required a 70 percent longer stay in the hospital, compared to the kids not exposed to smoke

EARLY VOTING - Heard enough from the presidential candidates? Here's an answer: Vote now and put the election behind you. Early voting in the presidential race begins Thursday, and in the weeks to come millions of people in key states will cast ballots that could prove decisive on Election Day. They did in 2008, when President Barack Obama's margin of victory relied to a great degree on early votes cast in such crucial states as Florida, Colorado, North Carolina and Iowa. These days, a call to vote early is a standard plea in Obama's campaign speeches. Because in Iowa, you don't have to wait till Nov. 6 to vote. You can be among the very first to vote in this election, starting Sept. 27," Obama told supporters Saturday in Urbandale, Iowa. Republican challenger Mitt Romney is looking to build up that early vote as well, eager to erect a better firewall than John McCain did four years ago. But early voting has favored Democrats, drawing heavily from the African-American community, and this year Republican legislatures have tried to limit early voting in states such as Ohio and Florida. If votes cast on Election Day decided the 2008 election, McCain would have won in Florida, Colorado, North Carolina and Iowa. But Obama won those states with an overwhelming early vote advantage, gained by mobilizing not only committed voters but also non-habitual voters with Internet ads, email and text messages and person-to-person home visits and phone calls

ASTHMA INHALERS CAN STUNT GROWTH - An inhaled drug commonly used to treat children with asthma cuts about half an inch off their height permanently, researchers reported on Monday. But the good news is that the stunting effect doesn't get worse over time, the researchers report in the New England Journal of Medicine. They said doctors can work with parents to reduce the dose of the drug as much as possible to minimize the effects. The drug is called budesonide and is marketed under several brand names, including Rhinocort and Pulmicort. It is very effective at controlling serious asthma, which

affects an estimated 6 million U.S. children and millions more adults. So the researchers don't recommend taking kids off the drug if they need it. A big study done more than a decade ago showed the drug was safe and very effective but doctors noted at the time that the kids in the study were about half an inch shorter if they got budesonide instead of other asthma treatments. The new study, presented at the European Respiratory Society Annual Congress in Vienna, Austria, shows the effect may be permanent. This was surprising because in previous studies, we found that the slower growth would be temporary, not affecting adult height, said Dr. Robert Strunk of Washington University in St. Louis, who worked on the study. It clarifies that they do not eventually catch up as they age or fall further behind their peers, added Dr. Gary Gibbons, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The original study included more than 1,000 children aged 5 to 12 who got either budesonide, a non-steroid drug called nedocromil, or a placebo or sham treatment. William Kelly of the University of New Mexico and colleagues tracked down 943 of the original children, now adults. The children who got budesonide were still, on average, just about half an inch shorter. In the original study, kids got a dose of 400 micrograms. Studies since have shown doctors can cut this dose in half and still control asthma, although kids who get even this lower dose are still just under half an inch shorter than children getting different treatments

GAS PRICES WILL FALL - The weekly average price of a gallon of regular gasoline is \$3.84, up nearly 7 cents from a week ago according to the U.S. Department of Energy, and up 17 cents from a year ago. Prices have inched up in recent weeks because of refinery problems brought on by Hurricane Isaac, which shut down most oil production and refining along the Gulf coast. Experts expect prices to start coming down toward the end of September. The country should see some of the lowest gas prices around Thanksgiving and Christmas, with the caveat that a surprising pick up in the economy or unforeseen supply disruptions could keep prices higher

TX:UNITED AIRLINES TO INSTALL NEW SKINNIER SEATS - Crowded planes could feel a little more packed, starting next year. Coming up, the new changes coming to one airline. Just when you thought flying coach couldn't get more cramped, get ready for a tighter squeeze. United Airlines has announced plans to install slimmer seats to fit more passengers. Very uncomfortable and I was sitting up on row 10 and they still were small so I can't imagine them getting any smaller

SILENT HEART ATTACKS, DEADLY - For every heart attack that strikes with chest pain, shortness of breath and nausea, almost two more slide in under the radar among older adults, a new study found. The imaging study of 936 elderly men and women in Iceland found 17 percent had signs of an unrecognized heart attack: a blood vessel blockage that scarred the heart, according to MRI images, without sparking the symptoms that land patients in the hospital. Less than 10 percent of study participants had a heart attack with recognizable symptoms

ARIZONA IMMIGRATION - MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN-MIAMI, FLORIDA - Arizona can require police officers to check the immigration status of people they stop or detain, a federal judge said, denying a request by civil rights groups to temporarily block enforcement of the provision. U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton

in Phoenix yesterday rejected a request by the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Immigration Law Center, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund to prevent Arizona from enforcing what the civil rights groups called the show me your papers provision until the courts have ruled whether it violates the U.S. Constitution. The judge said she wouldn't ignore the clear direction of the U.S. Supreme Court that the provision cannot be challenged further on its face before the law takes effect." The Obama administration sued to challenge S.B. 1070, as Arizona's immigration law is known, saying it encroached on the exclusive federal right to set immigration policy.

NILE VIRUS - As of Tuesday, deaths were up 32 percent compared to the previous week. The total now stands at 87 since the beginning of the year, the CDC said. Total cases including the deaths from the mosquito-borne disease stood at 1,993, a rise of 25 percent since August 30. The numbers are the highest recorded through the first week of September since the virus was first detected in the United States in 1999, the Atlanta-based CDC said. While virtually the entire country has been affected by the outbreak, 70 percent of cases are concentrated in six states - Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Michigan and South Dakota. The record number of cases registered in 2012 could be due to a relatively mild winter, an early spring and hot summer, according to the CDC. Other factors potentially contributing to the outbreak are birds transporting the virus - first identified in Uganda in 1937 - and the exploding mosquito population. About one in 150 people infected will develop severe illness with symptoms that include high fever, convulsions

RECOMMEND CAMERAS ON PLANES - External cameras should be installed on large airliners to help pilots prevent ground collisions, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended Wednesday. Collisions while planes are taxiing to runways or parking ramps or being pushed back from gates have been a problem in the airline industry for years, experts say. While ground personnel who escort planes at airports have significantly reduced the number of taxiing accidents, the growing mix of jumbo jets and small regional jets on congested airfields worries safety officials. All three recent accidents, at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Boston Logan International Airport and Kennedy International Airport in New York, involved large jets and commuter-style planes. The pilots of the large planes could not easily view the airplanes' wingtips from the cockpit, according to preliminary information from all three accidents, NTSB investigators said.

HANTAVIRUS THIRD DEATH - A West Virginian is the third person to die so far from a rodent-borne illness linked to some tent cabins at Yosemite National Park that has now stricken eight people in all, health officials said Thursday. Five people are ill from the outbreak reported last week by park officials, who said up to 10,000 guests could have been exposed to hantavirus pulmonary syndrome from sleeping in the cabins since June 10. More infections could be reported. Alerts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent to public health agencies, doctors and hospitals have turned up other suspected cases that have not yet been confirmed. This week the European CDC and the World Health Organization issued global alerts for travelers to any country to avoid exposure to rodents. Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, declined to release details of the West Virginia victim at a news conference. Gupta said the victim had visited the park since June but declined to be more specific, citing the family's wish to grieve in private.

JOB REPORT - The disappointing August jobs report raises yet another campaign obstacle for President Barack Obama and makes his hopes of holding onto his own job even more challenging - especially in closely contested battleground states with painfully high levels of unemployment. Coming less than 12 hours after the president accepted his party's nomination for a second term, the lackluster report could wipe out or diminish any traditional bounce in the polls he might have gotten from the festive, well-choreographed three-day Democratic National Convention. The broad message here is flat, flat, flat, said economist Heidi Shierholz with the labor-affiliated Economic Policy Center. A disappointing report for one month might be dismissed in normal times as an aberration, she said, but a stagnant report when the unemployment rate is over 8 percent represents a continuation of the crisis, meaning that getting back to prerecession employment levels will take many more months, even years. The bleak news played right into the hands of Republicans, who claim that Obama's policies inhibit job production and have made the economic picture worse. Did you see the jobs report this morning by the way? Republican rival Mitt Romney asked reporters in Sioux City, Iowa. Almost 400,000 people dropped out of the workforce altogether. It is simply unimaginable. The overall unemployment rate declined from 8.3 percent to 8.1 percent last month, which should be good news, but the improvement came only because more people gave up looking for work

IMMIGRATION-FLIGHTS HALTED - The U.S. government has halted flights home for Mexicans caught entering the country illegally in the deadly summer heat of Arizona's deserts, a money-saving move that ends a seven-year experiment that cost taxpayers nearly \$100 million. More than 125,000 passengers were flown deep into Mexico for free since 2004 in an effort that initially met with skepticism from Mexican government officials and migrants, but was gradually embraced as a way to help people back on their feet and save lives. The Border Patrol hailed it as a way to discourage people from trying their luck again, and it appears to have kept many away -- at least for a short time. But with Border Patrol arrests at 40-year lows and fresh evidence suggesting more people may be heading south of the border than north, officials struggled to fill the planes and found the costs increasingly difficult to justify. Flights carrying up to 146 people were cut to once from twice daily last year. And this summer, there haven't been any. Everything comes down to dollars and cents, said George Allen, assistant chief of the Border Patrol's Tucson sector. We're running into a more budget-conscious society, especially with the government. He added: Does it fit within our budget and is there an alternative that is not as effective but still effective? In an effort to keep the flights going, American authorities proposed mixing in Mexicans who commit crimes while living in the U.S. The Mexican government balked at seating hardened criminals next to families, elderly and the frail who recently crossed the border in search of work. Right off the bat, I can tell you that Mexico was not going to allow, nor will it ever allow, that kind of repatriation, which puts families' safety at risk, said Juan Manuel Calderon, the Mexican consul in Tucson. U.S. and Mexican negotiators also discussed changing the route from El Paso, Texas, where many Mexicans with criminal records are held, to the central Mexican state of Guanajuato. In the past, the route has been from Tucson to Mexico City. The flights may resume but not this year, U.S. and Mexican officials say. They have operated only in the summer and only in Arizona, designed as a humanitarian effort in response to the many migrants who have died over the last decade trekking through remote deserts in debilitating heat. U.S. Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Mexico Interior Secretary Alejandro Poiré said in February that they planned to launch a pilot program April 1 to

fly migrants arrested while living in the United States deep into Mexico. The pilot program was partly a response to complaints from Mexican border cities that too many deportees were being dumped on their streets and contributing to crime and unemployment

VACCINE EXEMPTIONS-PRIVATE SCHOOLS - An Associated Press analysis finds that California parents who send their children to private schools are much more likely to not immunize their children than their public school counterparts. California surveys all schools with at least 10 kindergartners to determine how many have all the recommended immunizations. The AP analyzed that data and found the percentage of children in private schools whose parents forego some or all vaccinations is more than two times greater than in public schools. And not even the recent re-emergence of whooping cough has halted the downward trajectory among the private school students. Public health officials say the rate of children entering private schools without all of their shots jumped by 10 percent last year, while the opt-out figures held steady in public schools for the first time since 2004

CHICAGO SCHOOL PROTEST - The public schools strike here entered a second day this morning, after officials huddled but failed to broker a deal to get the city's 350,000 students back into the classroom. School board President David Vitale said Monday night that a deal could come soon. We said to them again, 'We should resolve this tomorrow, we are close enough,' he said. This is hard work. We want to get this resolved. We want our kids back in school

MARIHUANA MAY INCREASE RISK OF CANCER - A new study suggests young who use marijuana may have a higher risk of testicular cancer. California researchers compared the recreational drug use of 163 men who had testicular cancer with 292 healthy men of the same age, race and ethnicity. All were between the ages of 18 and 35. They found those who smoked pot had double the risk of testicular tumors. The National Cancer Institute estimates more than 8,500 men will be diagnosed with testicular cancer in the U.S. this year. About 360 of them will die from it. The study appears in the latest issue of the American Cancer Society's journal, Cancer

ALABAMA APPEALS RULING ON IMMIGRATION - Alabaa officials asked the full 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to reinstate portions of a tough law targeting illegal immigrants after a three-judge panel blocked those provisions. We are filing this based on principle, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, a Republican, said in a statement announcing the move. As the governor of Alabama, I have a duty to uphold and defend Alabama law. Federal courts should not restrain state governments in a way that is contrary to the U.S. Constitution

DEPORTATION'S RECORD - Immigration enforcement authorities detained and deported record numbers of illegal immigrants in 2011 and are on track for similar figures this year, even as the numbers of migrants crossing the border illegally dropped to a 40-year low, according to data published Friday by the Department of Homeland Security. Immigration agents deported 391,953 foreign-born people during the 2011 fiscal year, the department's Office of Immigration Statistics reported. They included more than 188,000 people who had been convicted of crimes in the United States - an "all-time high for such deportations, the report found.

YOUNG MINORITY VOTERS - As many as 700,000 minority voters under age 30 may be unable to cast a ballot in November because of photo ID laws in certain states, according to a new study. The lower turnout could affect several House races as well as the tight presidential contest. Using calculations based on turnout figures for the past two presidential elections, researchers at the University of Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis concluded that overall turnout this year by young people of color ages 18-29 could fall by somewhere between 538,000 to 696,000 in states with photo ID laws

STUDY QUESTIONS ASTHMA MEDS - Millions of patients with asthma may not need to take their medicine every day after all. Nearly 25 million people in the United States suffer from asthma, and many of them use an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) medicine two times per day, every day, to prevent asthma symptoms. Unlike albuterol, a medicine that opens the airways and is used only to treat symptoms or asthma attacks, patients on inhaled corticosteroids are told to use this medicine even when they are not having symptoms. Now, a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests this twice-a-day medication may not be needed

PRODUCT SHRINKING - MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN – MIAMI - Big brands are selling smaller products for the same price and one of the many consumers noticing the differences and alerting others is not even enough to drive. Jared Goodman, 13, is half-teenager, half shopping sleuth. I usually feel cheated because I'm paying the same price for less of an item," Goodman told ABC News. I usually look for labels that say 'new and improved.' Because that probably means the product's been downsized. Goodman is part of a growing army of shoppers who are fed up with what's called downsizing. Consumers from all over the country send their tips to Edgar Dworsky, the founder of ConsumerWorld.org who posts the findings online

NILE VIRUS - Delaware Division of Public Health officials say the first case of West Nile virus has been confirmed in the state. The patient is a 34-year-old Wilmington man who travels frequently for work. Officials believe he contracted the virus while out of state. Mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds and spread it to people they bite. Officials offer the following tips to avoid mosquito bites and reduce the risk of infection: When outside during spring, summer or fall, wear insect repellent containing less than 30 percent DEET for adults, less than 10 percent DEET for children; Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants in mosquito-infested areas; Avoid being outside during peak mosquito activity such as during dusk, evening or early morning; and Drain or remove items that collect water and provide mosquito-breeding habitat, such as buckets, rain barrels, old tires, blocked rain gutters and unused swimming pools.

SUGARY DRINKS VOTE TODAY - The New York City Board of Health on Thursday voted to ban restaurant sales of supersized sugary drinks, becoming the first city in the nation with a so-called soda ban. The measure prohibits city restaurants, delis, sports facilities, and street vendors (but not grocery stores or convenience stores) from selling soda and other sweetened beverages in servings exceeding 16 ounces. Advocates of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's attempt to curb the escalating obesity problem hailed the vote, while opponents -- including beverage makers -- say it violates First Amendment rights. The beverage industry has vowed to challenge the ruling in court. The Board of Health did the right thing for New York, said Dr. Steven Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, in a

statement. For the past several years, I've seen the number of children and adults struggling with obesity skyrocket, putting them at early risk of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Sugary beverages play a major role in this cycle, and are so heavily marketed to children, they jeopardize the next generation of New Yorkers. Eliot Hoff, spokesman for New Yorkers for Beverage Choices, a coalition of individuals and businesses opposed to the regulations, said recently the issue isn't about weight, it's about freedom. As he sees it, the people of New York can make their own decisions about what they eat or drink. In the battle against obesity, more choice rather than less choice is the way to go, Hoff believes

FEDERAL RESERVE RESCUE - The central bank's decision to tie its controversial bond buying directly to economic conditions was an unprecedented step that marked a big escalation in its efforts to drive U.S. unemployment lower. Stock prices jumped, while gold hit a six-month high as investors braced for faster inflation. Unlike in its two previous bond-buying sprees, the Fed said it would only purchase mortgage-backed securities, hoping in part to unstick a housing sector that Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke called a missing piston in the U.S. recovery. One top Republican charged that the move was a bid to help President Barack Obama ahead of November's closely contested presidential election. Republican nominee Mitt Romney's campaign said it confirmed the failure of Obama's policies. Bernanke dismissed talk the Fed was taking sides, saying it acted solely because of the dire state of the U.S. labor market. The employment situation ... remains a grave concern, Bernanke told reporters. While the economy appears to be on a path of moderate recovery, it isn't growing fast enough to make significant progress reducing the unemployment rate. By buying mortgage-linked debt, the Fed hopes to press mortgage rates lower, helping the housing market and also encouraging investors in MBS to switch into other assets, such as corporate bonds, lowering their yields as well

CHICAGO SCHOOLS-STRIKE - Chicago's nearly weeklong teachers strike appeared headed toward a resolution Friday. Negotiators emerged from marathon talks to say they had achieved a framework that could end the walkout in time for students to return to class Monday. Chicago School Board David Vitale said the heavy lifting was over. He declined to say where each side compromised and stressed that union delegates still must vote to formally end the strike. Vitale said the agreement gives children the time they need in the classroom and teachers the respect they deserve. Robert Bloch, an attorney for the Chicago Teachers Union, said union leaders expected to complete the contract language in time to present a final package to 700 union delegates sometime Sunday. The walkout, the first by Chicago teachers in 25 years, canceled five days of school for more than 350,000 public school students who had just returned from summer vacation. As the bargaining dragged on, teachers returned to the streets for rallies to press the union's demands, which include a plan for laid-off instructors to get first dibs on job openings and for a teacher-evaluation system that does not rely heavily on student test scores.

END OF PART 1